

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 161815Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3614

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 3919

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ONLY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PINOCHET, AUGUSTO)

SUBJ: PINOCHET PLANS VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

1. PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S PRESS SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHLY VISITED ME ON SHORT NOTICE NOON JUNE 16. HE TOLD ME UNDER SEAL OF GREATEST CONFIDENCE (ONLY THREE PERSONS, NOT INCLUDING FONOFF, KNOW ABOUT IT) THAT PINOCHET PLANS IN NEAR FUTURE TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK FRO DISCUSSION WITH UNSYG WALDHEIM; FOLLOWING THAT DISCUSSION PRESIDENT WISHES TO HAVE AN INFORMAL MEETING -- NO STATE VISIT -- WITH PRESIDENT FORD, AND ANOTHER MEETING WITH IBRD PRESIDENT MACNAMARA.

2. I ASKED WILLOUGHBY WHETHER PINOCHET HAD GIVEN THOUGHT TO PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH A VISIT. CHILE'S ANTAGONISTS WOULD USE IT FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ADVERSE PUBLICITY. PINOCHET WOULD BE EXPOSED TO A HOSTILE PRESS. CHILEANS SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER GAINS WOULD OUTWEIGH RISKS, PARTICULARLY IF NOTHING WERE DONE BEFORE PINOCHET'S VISIT TO MODERATE EXISTING CLIMATE OF OPINION RE CHILE.

3. WILLOUGHBY REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN DECISION TO MAKE THE TRIP. APPARENTLY HE INTENDS TO DO

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IT SOME TIME IN JULY. HE EXPECTS TO TAKE WITH HIM,

ACCORDING TO WILLOUGHBY, SOMETHING WHICH CAN BE CONSTRUED AS A DEFINITE STEP FORWARD IN THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS IN CHILE.

4. WILLOUGHBY WOULD NOT BE DRAWN ON EXACTLY WHAT PINOCHET INTENDS TO DO IN THIS FIELD, BUT FROM OUR GENERAL CONVERSATION I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS AT LEAST TWO POINTS IN MIND. FIRST, HE IS INTENSELY AWARE OF CHARGES THAT THE NEW NATIONAL SECURITY LAW, PROVIDING FOR PROMPT NOTIFICATION TO FAMILIES AND JUDICIAL PROCESSING FOR DETAINEES, AND PENALIZING TORTURE, HAS REMAINED A DEAD LETTER. SECOND, HE IS EQUALLY AWARE OF CHARGES THAT THE DIRECTORATE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DINA) IS OPERATING AS AN UNCONTROLLED GESTAPO. MY GUESS WOULD BE THAT PINOCHET MIGHT BRING WITH HIM ASSURANCES REGARDING THESE MATTERS AND EVIDENCE THAT CHANGES WERE ACTUALLY BEING MADE, PLUS PERHAPS SOME FURTHER MODIFICATION OR ELIMINATION OF THE LEGAL STATE OF SIEGE UNDER WHICH CHILE HAS BEEN OPERATING SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 1973.

5. IN THE DISCUSSION HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WITH PRESIDENT FORD, PINOCHET WOULD ALSO RAISE THE CHILE-PERU PROBLEM. WHILE THE CURRENT SITUATION IS CALM, PINOCHET IS INTENSELY WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE. WILLOUGHBY DID NOT SAY SO, BUT I WOULD ASSUME THIS WOULD BE A LEAD-IN TO DISCUSSION OF THE BAN ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHILE.

6. COMMENT: WILLOUGHBY MADE IT PLAIN THAT PINOCHET HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO MAKE THIS TRIP. ASSUMING WALDHEIM DOES NOT PUT HIM OFF, A CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT FORD PRESENTS BOTH HAZARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE FORMER. AS TO THE LATTER, ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO HELP PRODUCE A REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN THE DIRECTION OF NORMALIZATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN CHILE WOULD BE A DISTINCT GAIN. MY PERSONAL INCLINATION FROM EMBASSY STANDPOINT WOULD BE TO INFORM WILLOUGHBY THAT A VISIT WITH THE PRESIDENT WOULD ONLY BE WORTH WHILE IF GENERAL PINOCHET BROUGHT WITH HIM SOME DEFINITE ASSURANCES AND COMMITMENTS AS TO HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS, CONCERNING WHICH WE WOULD WANT CLEAR INDICATION. IN THAT EVENT, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR PINOCHET TO SEE THE PRESIDENT BEFORE HE SEES WALDHEIM.

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7. PINOCHET WILL BE OUT OF SANTIAGO JUNE 17 AND 18, BUT HE AND WILLOUGHBY WILL BE BACK ON JUNE 19. I TOLD WILLOUGHBY I WOULD DO MY BEST TO GET SOME INDICATION OF US GOVERNMENT REACTION BY THAT TIME. AT HIS REQUEST, I AGREED TO ASK THAT THIS MATTER BE HELD EXTREMELY CLOSELY IN WASHINGTON; I AM DOING THE SAME WITHIN THE EMBASSY.

POPPER

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